



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chair Michelle Steel

3rd District – Orange County

Cynthia Bridges
Executive Director
www.boe.ca.gov

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Free Income Tax Return Preparation at VITA Events in Orange County

Sacramento – Individuals and families who need help with income tax return preparation are invited to attend the Orange County kick-off event for the [Free Income Tax Return Preparation](#) program at Irvine Valley College on Saturday, February 1, 2014. California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Vice Chair Michelle Steel, Orange County United Way, and Irvine Valley College are sponsoring this free event.

Attendees will receive tax preparation assistance from trained and certified volunteers, and receive information about the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC). Individuals who are eligible can qualify for as much as \$6,044 in EITC. All events are free and open to the public. Language assistance is available. Individuals and families can obtain tax preparation assistance at select schools, community centers, and nonprofit organizations throughout Orange County in February, March and April 2014.

Event: Free Income Tax Return Preparation at VITA Events in Orange County

Date: Saturday, February 1, 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Place: Irvine Valley College
Business Sciences Technology and Innovation Center
BST 212
5500 Irvine Center Drive
Irvine, CA 92618

Register: Call 1-888-434-8248

Information: www.boe.ca.gov/members/msteel/tax_preparation.html

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Elected to the Board of Equalization in 2006 and re-elected in 2010, Michelle Steel serves as *Southern California's elected taxpayer advocate*. In December 2007, Steel discovered the Board of Equalization had delayed the return of millions of dollars in security deposits owed to California businesses. Procedures were changed due to Steel's decisive leadership. Following her

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investigation, the tax agency refunded tax security deposits to over 5,500 small businesses. To date, over \$100 million in security deposits have been returned to taxpayers.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$56 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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